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JUNE 9, 2021

SUBMITTAL

TO: CO-CHAIRS AND MEMBERS
HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL
STATE OF HAWAII

FROM: CHELSEA ARNOTT
PLANNER, HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE HISC RESOURCES WORKING
GROUP

BACKGROUND

Since its inception in 2003, the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) has disbursed funding to support interagency invasive species projects that:

- Fill gaps between agency mandates or existing agency programs, and/or
- Advance our collective knowledge through research and development of new tools.

Funds are disbursed via an intra-governmental granting process wherein state, county, and federal offices may submit requests for funding and meet to collaboratively draft a recommended budget for HISC review.

The HISC Resources Working Group serves as the evaluation committee for the yearly HISC funding process that develops the HISC recommended budget. Members of the Resources Working Group represent the HISC state departments, chairs from the other HISC working groups, and HISC program support staff.

During the funding process, members are asked to evaluate proposals related to their sector or knowledge base (e.g. agriculture, natural resources, tourism, prevention, research, outreach, etc...). All evaluations are compiled into a single spreadsheet for discussion at the Resources Working Group meeting. This meeting is public and applicants are encouraged to attend to answer any questions or comments. Members of the Resources Working Group openly discuss each application and propose an award amount for the overall recommended budget.

DISCUSSION

The HISC Resources Working Group is comprised of members from each of the HISC state departments, chairs from the other HISC working groups, and HISC program support staff.

Below is a list of recommended members to the HISC Resources Working Group:

- Justine Nihipali; Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
- Grace Simmons; Department of Health
- Darcy Oishi; Department of Agriculture
- Janis Matsunaga; Department of Agriculture
- Masatomo Murata; Department of Transportation
- Robert Hauff; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife
- Natalie Dunn; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources
- Kim Fuller; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources
- Mike Melzer; University of Hawai'i, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
- Christy Martin; UH Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species
- HISC Program Support Staff

Duties of the HISC Resources Working Group include:

- Evaluation of proposals for HISC funding
- Developing the HISC recommended budget for Council approval

The HISC Resources Working Group duties could expand beyond the HISC funding process to identify resource shortfalls for invasive species work and secure dedicated and sustained funding mechanisms and sources.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

- HRS 194-2 (a): Establishes the HISC for the purpose of cabinet-level coordination and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives
- HRS 194-2 (a)(2): Advise, consult, and coordinate invasive species-related efforts with and between the departments of agriculture, land and natural resources, health, and transportation, as well as state, federal, international, and privately organized programs and policies.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the HISC approve the recommended members of the HISC Resources Working Group to evaluate HISC funding applications and prepare the recommended budget.
2. That, if there are any additional actions related to identifying and/or securing resources for invasive species work, the Resources Working Group could be utilized to assist that effort with HISC Program Support Staff direction.
3. That, if there are any changes to members of the HISC Resources Working Group, the Council designates HISC Program Support Staff to approve those changes.